



THE BLUE LIGHT

April 2008

THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY
Governor

COLONEL J. CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Director

LT. COLONEL F.A. BINGHAM
Assistant Director

MAJOR JERRY CONNER
ABI Division

MAJOR JAMES LYONS
Administrative Division

MAJOR HUGH MCCALL
Driver License Division

MAJOR ROSCOE HOWELL
Highway Patrol Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Protective Services Division

MAJOR CHARLES ANDREWS
Service Division



Inside this issue...

Regina Hardy Named ARA Examiner of Year	2
Graduation 2007-C	3
TBOH 50/4 Takes on Chilton County	5
Major Changes	6
New Helicopter Lands at DPS	11
Director's Crisis Center	12
Memories of Johnny and Phyllis	13
CyberCrime Unit Assists HP and DL	16



Left, Brown hands Hardy her trophy and \$100 Home Depot gift card. Right, winners Thompson, Hardy and Cook photographed at the luncheon.

Regina Hardy Named 2007 ARA Examiner of the Year

The Alabama Retail Association recognized Regina Hardy for her outstanding efforts in curtailing driver license fraud by presenting her with the 2007 ARA Examiner of the Year Award March 26.

Hardy is a driver license specialist with the Birmingham District and has been with the department for 18 years. She is consistently a top performer: In 2005 she was named Examiner of the Year, and she placed third in last year's award ceremony. In addition, Hardy was listed as Outstanding Examiner of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2007.

"Alabama retailers are proud that through this award program and our partnership with the Department of Public Safety, the Driver License Division has seen an increase in its arrest record of almost 325 percent since the inception of the Examiner of the Year in 2000," said ARA President Rick Brown.

In determining the quarterly and annual award, the Alabama Retail Association uses a point system. Five points are allocated for each misdemeanor charge, and 10 points for each felony. Arrests made by those employed in the Driver License Division cover a wide range of charges, including failure to appear, felony fraud, forgery, robbery, larceny, child neglect, rape, parole violations, and firearms violations.

Hardy amassed 501 points using this system. Also acknowledged at the ceremony were Reba Thompson, examiner I with the Decatur District, and Holley Cook, driver license specialist from the Dothan District. Thompson is also a two-time winner, and placed second in 2007 with 439 points. Cook accumulated 416 points in 2007, and placed third.

During his address at the awards luncheon, Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy commended Hardy and her colleagues, underscoring the important role Driver License has in promoting the department's mission.

"Alabama's driver license staff is on the job, with dedication and commitment to a profession that is demanding and frequently stressful," said Murphy. "I cannot say enough about their work to guard the public's safety through driver licensing."

"Thanks to their efforts, Alabama is safer. Arrests by Driver License Division staff have increased more than 300 percent since 2000, and are up more than 20 percent from 2006 to 2007."

Murphy also thanked the Alabama Retail Association for partnering with Public Safety to recognize driver license examiners and their stellar work to safeguard the driver licensing system, prevent fraud, and guard against identity theft.

"A license is not simply a permit to drive," he said. "It provides a means to establish an identity with retailers, credit agencies, the banking community, employers and others."

"As we know, identity theft costs millions of dollars annually and is one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the country. That makes the outstanding work of our driver license examiners even more valuable."



The 28 members of Trooper Class 2007-C joined the ranks of Alabama's state troopers at a commencement ceremony March 21 at the Alcazar Shrine Temple in Montgomery. The day was marked as one of tremendous accomplishment for the class members, and smiles were seen across the entire auditorium on the faces of many family members and friends, who joined in with the celebration. Trooper Class 2007-C, a full-term class, joins the graduates of 2007-B, the 12-week abbreviated class that graduated in January.

Capt. Randy Byrd, commander of the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, greeted those in attendance, including proud family members and friends, DPS directors and staff, the instructors at the academy, other members of law enforcement in attendance, and Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright.

DPS Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy took the honor of introducing Gov. Bob Riley as the speaker providing the graduation address to Class 2007-C. In introducing the governor, Murphy said, "As our governor, Gov. Riley has done wonderful things and brought integrity to this state. To work for this man is a true honor, and I am proud to call this man my boss."

In his graduation address, Riley underscored the importance of dedicated troopers to the state of Alabama. "You, more so than perhaps anyone else in state government, represent the state of Alabama," said Riley. "You are the face of Alabama every time you put on that uniform. What people think of our state will be a direct reflection of what you do."





Riley also took time in his graduation address to highlight the success of current programs, such as Take Back Our Highways, in reducing traffic fatalities. "Because of the actions of the Department of Public Safety," said Riley, "rural traffic fatalities are at their lowest levels in nine years, crashes are at their lowest point in 12 years. If you think that is impressive, let me tell you this: fatalities are down 21 percent from this same time last year."

Byrd presented the awards recognizing outstanding achievement in Class 2007-C. Jimmy M. Lancaster earned the Academic Award for achieving the highest grade point average. Lee P. Millergren received the Highway Response and Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving. The Firearms Award went to Jeffrey S. Grizzard for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill and safety in firearms training. Thomas A. Hutton accepted the Fitness Award for attaining the highest level of physical fitness.

Class President Reginal M. King was chosen as the class's top performer overall and received the prestigious Commander's Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to the class and DPS, while also maintaining a high academic average.

When asked about his experience at the academy, King responded, "Our training was professional, challenging, and I enjoyed it a lot. I definitely learned a lot from the academy and from this class. The camaraderie was there, and I really appreciate the stressing of the nine core values; they really instill them in you."

Fresh from the academy, Tpr. Joshua Cox said, "It is trying a lot of the time. In the beginning, there was a time or two when I began to wonder if all this was really worth it. Through it, though, we all uplift one another, and today I can tell you I know why they have that academy. It's exciting to know that I am doing something good with my life, and I am honored to call myself an Alabama state trooper."



Tpr. Rafael Thomas added, "The academy was unbelievably professional. They took 28 of us and turned us all into wonderful persons of character. It really is amazing how much of a family all of us became in such a short period of time. I am, indeed, grateful."

Following graduation, the new troopers reported to their initial assignments in Highway Patrol to begin 10 weeks of additional field training under the close supervision of veteran state troopers.



50/4

Take Back Our Highways Takes on Chilton County

"Take Back Our Highways: 50/4" took on Chilton County March 5-9 to generate a highly visible traffic enforcement presence on roadways to reduce traffic crashes and resulting deaths and injuries. Fifty additional troopers from throughout the state were specifically assigned to Chilton County to supplement area troopers for the four-day saturation program.

"The goal of all our efforts is to promote safe driving and to change bad driver behavior," said Montgomery Assistant Post Commander Sgt. Brent McElvaine. "Our heavy presence in the area definitely made drivers more mindful. There was a potentially dangerous situation when it snowed in the area on March 8, and I know the extra troopers in the area kept all danger to a minimum.

"From a trooper standpoint, the campaign was equally successful," said McElvaine. "We had no officers injured; we had no patrol car accidents. There was good cooperation within the different troops, and the collaboration between troops ensured we were able to do a good job in Chilton County. We've since received excellent feedback from the community there, and that speaks well of our effectiveness in what we're trying to accomplish."

During the blitz, troopers issued 1,077 speeding tickets and wrote 648 seatbelt/child restraint citations. Two separate Task Force Zero details aided troopers in making 10 DUI arrests during the campaign. The Take Back Our Highways initiative works through aggressive enforcement that targets specific driver behavior known to contribute to crashes and fatalities. In addition to TFZ details, other measures taken by troopers include line patrols, saturation patrols, and LIDAR details.

Last year, Chilton County saw 24 rural fatalities, almost double the number of fatalities in that same area in 2003 and 2004. Localized efforts to reduce fatalities in specific rural areas began in February with a campaign in Mobile/Baldwin counties. In the coming months, the program will focus on Cullman County, with 39 rural fatalities in 2007, and Tuscaloosa County, with 31.





MAJOR CHANGES

At a small promotional ceremony March 12 at Headquarters, the Department of Public Safety honored its three new division chiefs: Maj. Jerry Conner, chief of ABI; Maj. Herman Wright, chief of Protective Services; and Maj. James Lyons, chief of the Administrative Division.

At the ceremony, Col. J. Christopher Murphy said, "This truly is a historic occasion, to promote three majors at one time, and I must say that these three individuals today have a vision and what it takes to steer their ships in a new direction."

Acknowledging family members in attendance, Murphy said, "Family support is a crucial component in our success, and I truly appreciate what you do. I cannot thank you enough."

Collectively, the three majors bring nearly 80 years of experience to the department and "are important partners in moving Public Safety from 'good' to 'great,'" said Murphy. "We look to their leadership, their experience, proven ability and the highest of professional and ethical standards in serving Alabama and fulfilling this agency's mission."

During the promotional ceremony, both Murphy and Lt. Col. F.A. "Bubba" Bingham noted the challenge they faced when selecting the three new division chiefs and the importance of division chiefs to DPS. Murphy said, "I've been awake many long nights and pulled out a lot of my hair," while Bingham quipped, "Today, I stand a little taller, because a great weight has been lifted off my shoulders."





Major Gerald Lee Conner

Q&A

Even though Maj. Jerry Conner has spent the majority of his 29 years with Public Safety working within ABI, he acknowledges that his promotion to chief of ABI is an adjustment. Conner took time recently to talk to *The Blue Light* about his new role.

How are you transitioning from your previous role as area commander to division chief?

Having spent 22 years in ABI, I must say that has not made the transition necessarily easier, but it has made my direction clearer. A lot of the ideas I have now as division chief I had as regional commander and was incorporating then, the major difference being my decisions are now division-wide. Since I have been in ABI for so long, I do feel that I am at an advantage, being the ABI Division chief. The reason for my saying that is that I understand the history behind many of the previous decisions made. Whether

I agreed with prior decisions or not, I understand the reason why things were done the way they were, and my history in ABI has definitely made this a more knowledgeable transition.

What image would you like to portray of yourself to the department?

I, most certainly, would like to be viewed as a thinker, a planner, and a communicator, tempered by character. The vision I have for this division is the premier investigative organization in the state, based on our expertise. I am striving for us to be the elite among our peers. There are many different steps we will take to get us there, and I intend to be at the helm to guide us there.

How has your past experience prepared you for your role as division chief?

I bring the total of all of my experience to the table, and all of it has bettered me and prepared me for this day. My formal education has prepared me, as has my history in law enforcement. Obviously my training has prepared me, and last, but certainly not least, are the many prime examples of leadership throughout my own career.

What are your own sources for inspiration?

My faith, my family, and my career have all served as sources of inspiration. As to how my career inspires me, I must say that it is abstract, but it has to do with the things I've seen and done in my life. My career always has been a positive influence on me. In fact, I have my own personal mission statement, and that is to live a principle-centered life, and while leading that life to touch others' lives along the way. It is always important to contribute and to give back, and as major, I contribute by guiding policy that will benefit others.

What does DPS mean to you?

When I think about DPS, I see two things: the past and the future. I see the past in many of the traditions and values we uphold. I see the foundation that has been built and continues to thrive today. I see the future in the faces of many of our new troopers. I saw the future at the graduation on March 21, 2008. These young people will experience many of the things I experienced, and will see many of the things I saw. They will do what I once did, and they will carry out the visions under careful guidance from excellent leaders.

What are you looking forward to the most, as division chief?

I am most looking forward to carrying out the organizational culture as established by the director and moving in the direction of our vision. I am definitely looking forward to looking back in one year, just to see how much we have accomplished in a mere 12 months. It has only been a few weeks with me as chief, and I can notice some of the effects. My day-to-day managing style is participatory, and I take great pleasure in being involved and taking a hands-on approach within the division. At the heart of this organization are its people, and under my command, they will undoubtedly receive the dignity and respect they deserve as a core value.

What are you most proud of?

I am humbled by the people I serve daily and the many wonderful people that compose this department. I have encountered several true heroes here at DPS, both sworn and civilian, that would otherwise go unrecognized. In fact, that in itself is another source of my inspiration. We'll never know how much I respect the many people of this organization. I am proud of this entire institution. All individuals, from all ranks and backgrounds, bring something different to the table, and that makes me proud. It is my job to pull that string of diversity along and guide it all to its proper place. Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it, and it will go nowhere at all." That axiom or parable is applicable to my style of management and my principle of leadership.



Major James D. Lyons

Q&A

Fresh from his command in Highway Patrol and eager to tackle the Administrative Division, Maj. James Lyons took the opportunity to discuss his career and ambitions with *The Blue Light* recently.

How are you transitioning from troop commander to division chief?

Well, that's a difficult question to answer, because here I am, two weeks into the job, and I am still in the process of transitioning. Right now, I think it's best to say that I am playing the role of an interactive observer. Admin is a unique division because it is almost exclusively "behind the scenes," and deals with the many things that field officers almost never encounter. Thus far, however, I must say that in my two weeks, I've developed a new perspective with regard to DPS and my new role as division chief.

How is this job changing your perspective?

My perspective today is definitely broader than it was as troop commander. Because I am seeing things that I haven't seen before, and doing things that I haven't done before, I am thinking about things in ways that I haven't previously, and I find that aspect of my new role quite enlightening. With that said, I am ready to help move this department in new directions and strive to help the department attain new goals.

How have your past experiences better prepared you for your role as division chief?

Honestly, I would say that past life experiences have better prepared me for this role than past job experiences. Because the division is so different from what I have encountered in either HP or DL, my previous accomplishments won't necessarily make me a better division chief. However, I bring a wealth of experience to the job, and my natural ability to manage people is certainly one of those experiences. I have a hands-on approach to my work, and I definitely would say this approach is well suited to the job at hand.

What originally made you want to become a trooper?

As a kid, I witnessed several injustices, and I always thought that just wasn't right, and I knew long ago that I wanted to do something about that when I was capable. Law enforcement was just a field that I found myself naturally drawn to. There has always been an appeal to me about the rigidity, structure, and organization of the military. DPS has an atmosphere that both shares these ideals and adds its own unique element of family. I believe that, just like a preacher, being a trooper is a calling. This job is certainly not for everyone, and it takes someone who is dedicated and compassionate about law enforcement. I truly believe that being a trooper was the path chosen for me by the Lord, and He has laid out this path for me to follow. I certainly know I wouldn't be where I am today without His grace, and for that, I am thankful.

What are your primary sources for inspiration?

God, first and foremost, is my primary source of inspiration. My family is also a primary source of inspiration. Beyond that, though, I am inspired by a number of people, from past teachers and instructors to leaders I have previously worked under.

What does DPS mean to you?

DPS is my second family, and what a large family it is! Everyone here has their own likes and their own dislikes. Everyone here has made great accomplishments. Everyone here has experienced tragedy. What's important to note is that no matter what happens, we all experience it together. This department has given me purpose; it's my reason for getting up every morning ready to tackle a new day. Many of my fondest memories involve DPS, and it has been near and dear to me for as long as I've been a part of this organization.

What are you most looking forward to as division chief?

Really, I am excited about the Administrative Division as a whole. Recruiting is a huge priority of mine, and increasing our trooper numbers is definitely something to get excited about. Really, though, I am most looking forward to moving forward. While my focus is Admin, DPS moves forward as a department, and not as a division. Streamlining the operation from within and finding new ways to accomplish the department's mission will always come first. There is no work better than teamwork, and as a team, we will work and lay out a new vision for the Administrative Division.



Major Herman Wright

Q&A

The Blue Light sat down recently with Maj. Herman Wright, newly at the helm of Protective Services, to discuss his career and perspective on DPS.

Why did you want to become a trooper?

You know, I wish I had a great story of always wanting to be a trooper, but honestly, I don't have such a story. When I graduated high school, I went into the military to help pay my way through college. I was an MP for three years, and in those three years, I got married and decided I wanted to move back home to Montgomery. After talking to my brother, who was already a trooper, he convinced me I would like it because it wasn't all too different from what I was previously doing as an MP. So, on June 25, 1980, I went to the trooper academy with what must have been a good class of troopers and cadets. At the academy with me was Bubba Bingham, Charles Andrews, Hugh McCall,

Glenda Deese, Patrick Manning, and Agatha Windsor.

After completing the academy, I stayed in Selma and worked the roads in Dallas County until 1984, when I was promoted to corporal and transferred to Hamilton. I don't think I'd ever been that far north, and I knew about a month after I got there that I didn't want to be that far north ever again, when an enormous snowstorm engulfed the area. Here I was, needing snow tires and not even knowing what they looked like. Needless to say, after that, I decided to come back to some place more familiar, and I found myself calling around to find a place to transfer to. I found myself back at the academy as an instructor. After getting certified as an instructor at the Air University, I taught defensive tactics and received numerous additional certifications to teach other things at the academy.

In 1988, I was promoted to sergeant, and for the next four years, I was a training manager. In '93, I transferred back to Montgomery to head the Supply Unit and almost immediately wanted to go back to the academy. I became a lieutenant in 1997, as a planning and logistics officer, and the following year I was fortunate enough to attend the FBI National Academy. I was promoted to captain in 2000, as a district commander of HP, and transferred to the Integrity Office of SIU in December 2003. Three years later, I saw myself back at the academy, this time as commander, and was moved to assistant chief of the Administrative Division in December 2007. It's been quite a ride for me, and I am really looking forward to taking control of Protective Services.

What do you uniquely offer to DPS, in helping the department accomplish its mission?

I share the same vision in realizing that this department is one. I truly have drive to move DPS in new directions, and sometimes in new directions that people in the past were too afraid to go. I never want to be complacent, and I know there is a way to improve and make everything better, in new and innovative ways. If people were willing to rest on their laurels, we all might still be driving Model T's. I recognize that there is a way to better any situation, and I realize that we do not have the luxury to sit still, otherwise we fall behind.

What are you most proud of?

You know, when I first came to DPS, getting promoted was probably the last thing on my mind. At that time, patrol was on my mind, front and center. I'm not trying to sound conceited, but making it to major and becoming division chief is, without a doubt, what I am most proud of. When I was promoted to corporal, I thought that it would be amazing, if not unlikely, that I would one day rank as high as sergeant before retirement. Of course, in those days, I couldn't see working much past retirement age. When I was hired, you needed 30 years to retire, and even though 25 years is all you need today, I now understand why people at this department stay on, long past what is required for retirement. It is the job and the family and the atmosphere; it is the department. I've always thought that if you find a job you like to do, you'll feel like you haven't worked a day in your life, and I'm happy to say that, most definitely, is the case. I truly love my work, and after 28 years of service, if I am still here in a decade's time, I wouldn't be surprised.

What are you looking forward to, as division chief?

I want to give back to the department, all the department has given to me. I am excited to push forth and enact what is both my and Col. Chris Murphy's dream for DPS. After all of the years of looking up to figures in leadership, it is my turn to take the reigns and guide. I have absorbed abilities from past leaders in higher positions, and I've learned a lot from my past superiors that excites me to share as division chief. I will impart all the knowledge I've acquired over the years in service and am truly ready to share my skills in guiding the department.

What inspires you?

I am inspired by both my wife and my family. Obviously, included in my mentioning, "family" is my family here at Public Safety. I am a

(Continued on next page)

humble person, and most people that know me, know me as Herman, not captain or major. I love that I can talk to anyone here at DPS and will listen to anyone who has a good idea, want or wish. As someone in a position of authority, I recognize how important it is to listen to others. Decisions are not just made by the people at the top of the chain. Great decisions come from within, and this department's greatest asset is, by virtue, its people.

What does DPS mean to you?

DPS is very intriguing. It's complex ... kind of like a Rubik's Cube. Like a cube, there are six divisions, or sides. Each piece of the puzzle corresponds to a duty of someone at DPS, and while you need to arrange every piece of the puzzle to make it work harmoniously, sometimes pieces of the puzzle get temporarily displaced, for the greater good of the whole. Our objective at DPS is to serve and protect, and while we all need to be cautious and mindful of that, we need to aggressively promote our mission with all resources we have available.

Each step taken at DPS is one step closer to providing the best possible service for the public. DPS is a great organization for so many reasons, but one reason that is too often ignored is how wonderful it is to be a part of this greater good. I cannot think of a bad day I've had working at DPS. Now, I'm not saying that I have not had a bad day in 28 years, but I cannot think of one in particular, because the wonderful days far outweigh those bad ones, to the point that they appear to me as being virtually nonexistent. Also, DPS is such a great provider, not only to the people of Alabama, but to its own employees. I know, first hand, how much DPS has provided for me. Facts are facts, and the fact is we would not have second or third generation troopers on the force if this department wasn't such an excellent provider. I am thankful and humble to be a part of such a great organization.



From left, Walker, Jack McDaniel, Jones, Fran Copeland, Hatcher, Col. Chris Murphy, and Maj. James Lyons.

Financial Services Staff Commended

Diane Walker, Cathy Jones, and Sheila Hatcher of Financial Services were honored for exceptional performance and service to DPS on March 27. Last year, these three employees noticed discrepancies within the timing of deposits from the Dothan Driver License office, that resulted in the uncovering of a 12-year embezzlement of approximately \$58,000, and the dismissal of a long-term Driver License employee.

Trooper Class Update

With Class 2007-C fresh out of the academy, another group of trooper candidates is close on their heels to begin training this summer. Ninety-two conditional offers of employment were mailed to prospective trooper trainees at the end of March, said DPS Personnel Manager Cheri Cook. Preliminary processing is currently being completed, physical examinations will be performed April 5-6, and psychological exams will be conducted beginning April 17. The class should be finalized by the middle of May and set to begin training in June.

Although Cook soon may be closing the books on preliminary processing for the incoming June class, the cycle begins anew in preparation for an October class, as approximately 500 letters were mailed inviting prospective troopers to participate in testing for entry-level troopers to be held in Selma April 30-May 2.



New Helicopter Lands at DPS



The Bell 407 expands DPS's aviation arsenal, and left, trains in deploying tactical team members to their destination. Right, Chief Tpr. Pilot Kris Helton answers questions from the media.

March 25 was a day of celebration at Trooper Aviation and throughout the Department of Public Safety as DPS's long-awaited new helicopter, a Bell 407, was formally unveiled during a news conference at the unit's Montgomery hangar. The new helicopter significantly expands state trooper emergency air rescue and response capabilities, said DPS Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy.

Thanks to U.S. Sens. Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions, Murphy said, DPS was able to purchase the helicopter with a \$3 million U.S. Department of Justice grant through a direct earmark of Congressional funding from the 2007 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricane Katrina. He also credited DPS Grants Administrator Rosemary Perdue for her diligent efforts to secure funding for the project.

The need for a new helicopter originally was identified in the relief efforts post-Hurricane Katrina. For eight days, six Alabama state trooper pilots flew two helicopters as long as there was daylight, delivering food and water to the ravaged areas in Mississippi. Although the choppers they were flying were more than adequate for dropping off MREs, they lacked the muscle needed to rescue the many people gathering on rooftops to avoid the flooded landscape.

"This helicopter will take us from being a search-only unit to a search-and-rescue unit," said Murphy. "We have a great Aviation Unit, but with their old aircraft, our pilots had no way to take a basket down to pick up a missing Alzheimer's patient or bring home a lost child. All we could do was circle," said Murphy. "This helicopter will take us to a new level. It will allow troopers to arrive on scene faster, remain on scene longer, and provide needed versatility in emergency response."

The Bell 407 is a faster, more powerful, more versatile machine that proves itself more capable to respond to situations the Aviation Unit increasingly is called out to handle. The four-bladed rotor aircraft is capable of traveling at speeds of 140 knots and has a maximum take-off weight of 6,000 pounds. The chopper also comes equipped with a 300-pound hoist used for rescue or dropping supplies, and a FLIR system, used in search-and-rescue situations.

The helicopter allows Trooper Aviation to conduct long-line rescues, multiple extractions, stretcher-based evacuation, tactical operation insertion, and on-site delivery of emergency supplies and equipment.

Tpr. Pilot Lee Hamilton said the new craft would be able to provide rescue services from Mt. Cheaha to Mobile Bay. "Helicopters are notoriously limited by air speed and weight of cargo," said Hamilton. "With the new helicopter, we can get people off roofs and transport a six-member tactical team. The new helicopter can fight fires and has a 180-gallon BAMBI bucket. We can put the water where we want it with precision and accuracy."

State Trooper Aviation is made up of eight trooper pilots, two mechanics, two mechanic/inspectors and one administrative staff member. In addition to the Bell 407, the DPS fleet includes five fixed-wing aircraft, seven Jet Rangers and one Long Ranger. Aircraft operations and maintenance are based in Montgomery, with aircraft operations also in Cullman and Fairhope.

The unit averages 3,500 flight hours annually in support of state, federal and local law enforcement agencies. Its missions include searches, rescues, tactical details, surveillance and limited executive transportation.



Director's Crisis Center Equipped to Better Handle Disaster Scenarios

On the first floor of DPS Headquarters, the new Director's Crisis Center is taking shape and, according to IT Systems Specialist Galen Wagner, almost 90 percent completed.

The center originated with Col. J. Christopher Murphy's experience in crisis management with the Secret Service, to provide a central location for the director, assistant director, all division chiefs and assistants to monitor situations and carry out orders in the event of emergency. The project is being implemented by Maj. Charles Andrews and the Service Division, with support of Information Services.

"The Director's Crisis Center enables this department to move from management by crisis to true crisis management," said Murphy. "We are able to tap into the totality and knowledge of a given situation from this central hub and better assess the situation in ways previously not possible."

Funded by grants from Homeland Security, the center itself is a technological marvel. In the room are four 42-inch televisions, a smart white board/projector that connects to a laptop, and a telephone that connects directly to the National Warning System in Birmingham. Some of the more impressive elements of the crisis center are not even noticed at first glance: Generators are able to power the center in the event of an outage, and there is a redundancy of Internet connections if one network should fail.

Also part of the crisis center is the ACU-1000, a device that provides interoperability between multiple radio systems operating on different frequencies, to simplify communications for public safety. The final component to be installed in the crisis center is a video conferencing system that would enable up to 50 separate users access to a real-time video feed direct from the center. If necessary, the video can be recorded and posted to SafetyNet for even more people to view its contents.

"I believe this center will truly let DPS function as state police, in the event of a crisis," said Murphy. "In addition, the crisis center will be a safe command location for the governor to come to monitor events as they take place. Multiple outlets of information — from various local and national news channels to Virtual Alabama access — will allow us to be continually updated and to function seamlessly as DPS must during crises."

DPS is saddened by the recent loss of two very special people, near and dear to the department. Both Phyllis Salter and Johnny Hartley will be missed by the many people whose lives they touched. The following is a compilation of memories and stories from those who knew Phyllis and Johnny best.

Memories of Johnny and Phyllis



I remember the first day that Phyllis Salter came into the Driver License office in Dothan. I was the first person she came to when she walked in the door. Phyllis came straight up to my desk in the probate office and introduced herself and said that she was here to interview for driver license examiner. She was dressed in a beautiful, purple flowered dress, which later I learned was her favorite color. She had large, pretty brown eyes, and the cutest little apple cheeks and a smile like sunshine. I told her which office to go to and wished her luck. Although she wasn't hired that round, she was the next time the job came open, and I was so happy to see her come in wearing her examiner's uniform for the first time. She had told me she was tired of moving from job to job and wanted something that would be her career. Phyllis always was proud to be an examiner, and she was very dedicated to her job. Phyllis and I ended up being really good friends. I knew her son, Justin, and she knew my nephews, who are like my sons. My youngest nephew was really hoping that Ms. Phyllis would be able to give him his road test this coming May, on his 16th birthday. She always referred to him as "her baby." Today, there is a huge void in the Driver License office in Dothan.

Phyllis was a dear friend of mine, and I miss her very much.

-Priscilla Eubanks

Johnny was my boss, my co-worker, but most importantly, my friend. We spent many hours together at work and on details. He was always a pleasure to work with. Johnny and I were like family. Both of us watched each others' kids grow up, as well as grandkids. Johnny and I went through both good times and bad times together; we knew each others' problems, and I really felt like part of his family. Johnny always called me by my nickname, "Bubba," and when he called my house, he would ask for me by that name. There was one time when he called my house and asked for, "Alan," when one of my kids answered the phone. When they came and got me, they told me that Johnny must have been mad with me because he asked for "Alan," and not "Bubba." We always laughed about that every time we thought of it. Johnny truly enjoyed working for this department and enjoyed talking with all of his friends. Johnny also loved dirt track racing and working on their race car. I personally know that he cared for and loved his family and friends deeply.

-Alan Mobley



I went to high school with Capt. Charles Ward, Phyllis's uncle, and I have personally known this family for a long, long time. Phyllis and I were neighbors and really good friends. I had the pleasure of visiting with Phyllis and her family when she was ill. Justin, Phyllis's son, loved to come to my house to watch the birds in their birdhouses and the cows in the pasture while Phyllis and I relayed the state vehicles for work. Last year, when a tornado damaged my home, Phyllis told me that Justin wanted to come to my house to make sure I was OK and that my birdhouses weathered the storm.

Phyllis was a hard worker, and she wanted nothing more than to just get well, so she could return to her family, both at home, and at work. She will be greatly missed in the driver license office and in her community.

-Janan Doster



Phyllis grew up in Driver License. She always wanted to be a driver license examiner. She was so proud when she was hired. Phyllis helped babysit my son one summer. She always kept

up with him after that. Phyllis was out sick when my grandson was born. I'll always be glad she got to see my "Little Ian" before her last hospitalization. I loved Phyllis like a daughter. She always made the workday enjoyable. Phyllis always looked forward to working with the "old school" examiners. I'll miss her greatly and only hope I will get to see her in her "better place."

-Helen Knoebel



Johnny was like a dad to me. He called me "Sweet Pea," and I called him "Sunshine." We took care of each other, and Johnny was more than my supervisor; he was my friend. He had an absolute love for his Mustang, and he loved being around cars, in general. You can ask just about anyone who knew him, and they will all tell you the same thing: "It's just not the same without him."

Johnny was in the military and traveled all over the country. In the military, he was exposed to a lot of very different, and to all of us, nasty foods. He would often pick on us by telling us about the country he was in, and all the foods served to him that would just make you sick! I would often go to Bud's for lunch and bring him back their onion rings. That was his favorite from Bud's. On the weekends, Johnny loved to eat at a little place called

Truman's Seafood, off Highway 9 in Santuck. Johnny chuckled at me sometimes, because when I would get to work in the mornings, I would be in too much of a hurry to brew coffee and would instead make a pot of hot water! Johnny found it hilarious that I forgot to add the coffee. Johnny was an excellent supervisor to me. He always told me, "Don't take any crap from anybody and if they have a problem, tell them to see me." He was protective of his people. When our inventory/audit time rolled around, Johnny would pull a pile of vehicle folders and sit at his desk and count along with me, just like he was a secretary, too. He was also good about taking care of our troopers, especially those who took care of their assigned vehicles. Johnny always tried to be fair in making decisions in issuing vehicles.

When we had our auction, Johnny would hand me money and tell me to go buy food to feed all of our people here at the shop. Johnny always tried to make sure we were all taken care of in some way or another. I loved him very much, I've learned a lot from him, and I will never forget him. Johnny will always have a place in my heart.

-Tammy McGrady

Phyllis Salter was an absolutely amazing lady. She was always laughing, even when she wasn't feeling her best. She had a smile that could light up a room, and even though she had a tough exterior, she was extremely tender and kind-hearted to those that knew her well.

Phyllis and I had a lot in common. We were close in age, and we were both divorced single mothers, and had been so for some time. Even our sons share the same name, Justin Tyler, and both our sons are mere months apart in age. Also something Phyllis and I had in common were health problems. We comforted each other through them for the last six years. Not one day has passed when I do not think about her.

Phyllis was incredibly proud to be a driver license examiner. The staff at this office has always been like family. We are all friends outside of work, and we all know each others' families. Phyllis is certainly missed by everyone here.

If you knew Phyllis personally, you can know in your heart that one angel in heaven is smiling down upon you!

-Holley Cook



A number of years ago, Johnny Hartley would take two patrol cars, one damaged in the front, another damaged in the rear, cut off the damaged portions, and weld them together to make one. This was just one of Johnny's many can-do projects. Johnny also supervised the removal and renovation of the AMC Javelin and '36 Ford, and moved them to the new DPS headquarters museum. Johnny was a good friend of mine, and he'll be missed by all of his many friends and family.

-Capt. Roy Smith, Retired

Phyllis was a very special person to me. I worked beside her for five years, and it was the best five years of my career with the department. She was truly a blessing to our department, and to the Driver License Division. When Phyllis first started working with us, we clashed, because we were too much alike. Our personalities were so similar, it was as if we fought like sisters. Like sisters, we smoothed out the rough edges, and before too long, we couldn't work apart from one another. We joked about the two of us resembling an Oreo, sitting together. You know, there is something that Phyllis taught me about life, and that is not to judge anyone by their looks, their race, or anything of the sort. We, oftentimes, get too caught up in our own problems that we don't seem to remember that a lot of people have it a lot worse than we do ourselves. I only hope I can instill in my child what Phyllis has instilled in me. Love one another, be happy every day, not just today, and live life to its fullest. I will miss Phyllis every day, until the day I get to see her again. My thoughts and prayers are

with her family and friends.

-Jennifer Sanders



Johnny and I went on details together, and it was during that time that we became really close friends. He was a wonderful fellow, and I loved him dearly. When he came out and started his job, he was largely responsible for keeping us up and running, and Johnny was determined to keep everything running. Not only that, but he encouraged others to keep everything going, too. I sat with Johnny the last two nights he was alive. I sat and told him stories while he was in a coma. I'd like to think that he was able to hear my voice. I really miss talking to Johnny. We could always talk about various problems we had, and he was always so understanding. Johnny was a great friend, and I will always miss him.

-Capt. James Franklin, Retired



CyberCrime Unit Assists HP and DL

*Sutley and Thompson seen with evidence seized during traffic stop on Jan. 17.
Their collaborative efforts led to four felony arrests.*

On Jan. 17, Highway Patrol Tpr. Andy Sutley stopped a northbound vehicle along Interstate 85 for a traffic violation. What Sutley, along with Tprs. Al Cox and Billy Fulmer, found inside the vehicle prompted them to visit with Tpr. Robert Thompson of ABI's CyberCrime Unit.

Troopers were able to quickly determine the vehicle was a rental and had been rented by an unknown individual. Inside the vehicle, troopers located several different driver licenses, all displaying the same driver's photo. Also inside the car were several newly purchased items totaling more than \$3,000, of which all of the vehicle's occupants denied ownership.

Through a collaborative effort between Highway Patrol and ABI, Thompson was able to proceed with a criminal investigation that resulted in four felony warrants and the recovery of multiple stolen articles. Further investigation is pending by ABI and the U.S. Secret Service.

Perhaps most beneficial to the department, this cooperation between HP and ABI also brought to light the work of staff in different divisions focusing on similar cases. A subsequent meeting between the Driver License Fraud Unit and ABI's CyberCrime Unit resulted in the Fraud Unit's developing a database to share among investigators to interconnect existing and ongoing investigations.

Trooper Javelin Brings Back Memories

Vince and Nancy Kolb of Birmingham recently showed a replica AMC Javelin, the very first “pony” car to ever be used by police in the United States.

Several retired troopers at the car show thanked the Kolbs for bringing back several wonderful memories of when they were in the service. When asked why he underwent the project of recreating the Trooper Javelin, Kolb said, “I just wanted to do something to encourage people to support our Alabama troopers for all their hard work. This is my way of saying, ‘Thank you’ for all you do.”



Service Pins Awarded to Mobile DL

On Feb. 19 Maj. Hugh McCall and Capt. Terry Chapman presented service pins to Mobile Driver License personnel. Examiner I Debbie Chunn received her 20-year pin, Examiner I Anita Blanco received her 10-year pin, and Examiners Kim Miller and Felicia Smith each received their five-year pins. Their supervisors are Sgt. Lawrence Goff and Cpl. Jon Dees.



From left, McCall, Chunn, Goff, Miller, Chapman, Smith, Dees, and Blanco.



People You Know!

New Employees

John Dean III	2/19/08	PCO I	HP/Montgomery
Maurice Dixon	2/19/08	Custodial Worker	SER/Selma
Diane Gladney	2/01/08	Clerical Aide	DL/Safety Responsibility
Yolanda Harriel	2/19/08	Clerical Aide	DL/Hearing Unit
Kyle Moore	2/16/08	Clerk	DL/Safety Responsibility
John Perdue	2/01/08	Retired State Employee	ABI/Investigative Operations
Jennifer Powell	3/03/08	PCO I	HP/Evergreen
Ethel Roper	3/03/08	Custodial Worker	SER/ACJTC
Zipporah Wright	2/01/08	ASA I	ADM/Personnel

Re-employed

Joseph Stabler	2/01/08	Corporal	HP/Mobile
----------------	---------	----------	-----------

Promotions

JoAnn Ball	2/01/08	DL Supervisor	DL/Safety Responsibility
Jerry Conner	3/01/08	Major	ABI/Division Chief
Wayne Dailey	2/16/08	Corporal	PS/Dignitary Protection
Steven Dixon	2/16/08	Captain	DL/Chief Examiner
Jeannie Eastman	2/01/08	DL Supervisor	DL/Accident Records
Michael Elkins	2/16/08	Corporal	HP/Birmingham
Thomas Ford	2/16/08	Captain	DL/Region D Commander
Therese Frank	2/01/08	PCO II	PS/Capitol Police
Costella German	2/01/08	Staff Accountant	ADM/Financial Services
Justin Hoffman	2/16/08	IT Syst. Spec. Associate	DL/Information Services
Ronald Hulvey	3/01/08	Fingerprint Classifier II	ABI/Identification Unit
Edward Hunter	2/01/08	Building Custodian I	SER/ACJTC
Patricia Lindsey	3/01/08	ASA III	HP/Division Chief's Office
James Lyons	3/01/08	Major	ADM/Division Chief
Carol Mensie	2/01/08	DL Supervisor	DL/Reinstatement
Dovie Moss	2/01/08	PCO II	PS/Capitol Police
Ricky Peak	2/16/08	Captain	HP/Dothan
Joseph Penton	2/16/08	Corporal	HP/Montgomery
Phillip Pettus	2/16/08	Captain	DL/Region A Commander
Terry Tate	2/16/08	Captain	DL/Region C Commander
Rufus Washington	2/16/08	Captain	DL/Region B Commander
Herman Wright	3/01/08	Major	PS/Division Chief



People You Know!

Transfers

Robbie Autery	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Shelby County
Edward Bennett	3/01/08	Trooper	HP/ACJTC
Thomas Brooks	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Bullock County
Chad Brown	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Madison County
Jon Brummitt	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Chilton County
Jack Clark	2/16/08	Lieutenant	HP/MCSU
Steven Chattin	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Jackson County
Scott Cooper	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Autauga County
Randal Dubose	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Tuscaloosa County
David Green	2/16/08	Trooper	HP/MCSU
Jimmy Harrell	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Cleburne County
Bruce Irvin	3/01/08	Trooper	HP/Mobile County
Allen Jones	2/16/08	Lieutenant	HP/Division Operations Officer
Hogan Jones	2/16/08	Trooper	HP/MCSU
Tim McGlothlin	3/01/08	Captain	HP/Mobile
John Pert	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Houston County
William Randall	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Marshall County
Vaughn Souders	2/01/08	Trooper	ABI/Eradication
Joshua Taylor	2/16/08	Trooper	HP/MCSU
Charles Ward	2/01/08	Captain	ADM/Inspections
James Wharton	2/16/08	Sergeant	HP/Huntsville
Jerome White	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Montgomery County
Lawrence Wilson	2/01/08	Trooper	HP/Madison County

Resignations

Jeanene Dobyne	2/29/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Opelika
Jacob Goolsby	2/19/08	Service Patrol Operator	HP/Birmingham
Cedric Green	1/25/08	Trooper	HP/Dothan
Mary Lindsey	1/29/08	PCO I	HP/Tuscaloosa
Jennifer Shell	2/29/08	ASA I	ABI/Identification
Christopher Tribble	3/14/08	Equipment Operator II	SER/Auto Shop

Retirements

Barbara Hyatt	2/29/08	DL Examiner I	DL/Quad Cities
Donald Kiester	1/31/08	Trooper	DL/Jacksonville
James Morrison	2/29/08	Sergeant	PS/Dignitary Protection
Helen Olds	2/29/08	Custodial Worker	SER/ACJTC

Alabama DPS Fishing Tournament at Lake Guntersville

If fishing is something you love to do, you'll be happy to know that the next DPS Fishing tournament is scheduled for April 19 at the Goose Pond Colony Marina on Lake Guntersville in Scottsboro. The fee is \$50 per boat, and the deadline for pre-registration for the tournament is April 11. Late registration will include an additional \$25 fee.

For more information, please call ABI's Sherry Barfoot at (334) 353-1695.



TOURNAMENT RULES

1. All boats must meet Coast Guard requirements. Any violation of the waterways will result in a disqualification.
2. One DPS employee/retiree must be present in the boat as a fisherman/fisherwoman.
3. Each boat must blast off and check in by boat number at the designated time.
4. There is a five-bass limit per boat. (redestye, largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass only).
5. Culling: Anglers are encouraged to cull down to their five-bass tournament limit before continuing to fish.
6. Minimum length of fish is 15 inches.
7. If more than five fish are brought to the scales, fish will be culled to five, beginning with the largest.
8. Any angler weighing in a short fish will lose the short fish and also receive a one-pound penalty for each short fish.
9. The penalty for each dead fish is 4 ounces.
10. Late penalty is 1 pound per minute.
11. Consent to take a polygraph test is considered given upon signing the entry form.
12. No cutting off another angler's boat or passing between boat and point of fishing. (piers, grass, beds, land).
13. Any infraction of the rules will be brought to the attention of the tournament director.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FISHING TOURNAMENT

LIABILITY RELEASE: In signing this form, I acknowledge this as a high-risk event and release the Alabama Department of Public Safety, its Officers, Agents, employees and sponsors, (hereinafter referred to as DPS) from any and all damages claims, demands, costs or expenses relating to injury of any persons or any property, which I sustain or which I may cause by reason of participating in or in connection with this tournament.

Covenant not to sue and waiver of subrogation: I further agree that I will never sue DPS for damages on account of any injury or damage I suffer or cause whether known now or which may develop in the future from this event.

I signify by signature that I have read and understand the agreements and will abide by all rules of DPS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Partner

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Make Checks Payable and Mail to:

Sherry Barfoot / Subject: Tournament

P.O. Box 1511, Montgomery, AL 36102

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

Capt. Marc McHenry, HP

Lt. Clay Barnes, ABI

Lt. Karl Youngblood, ABI

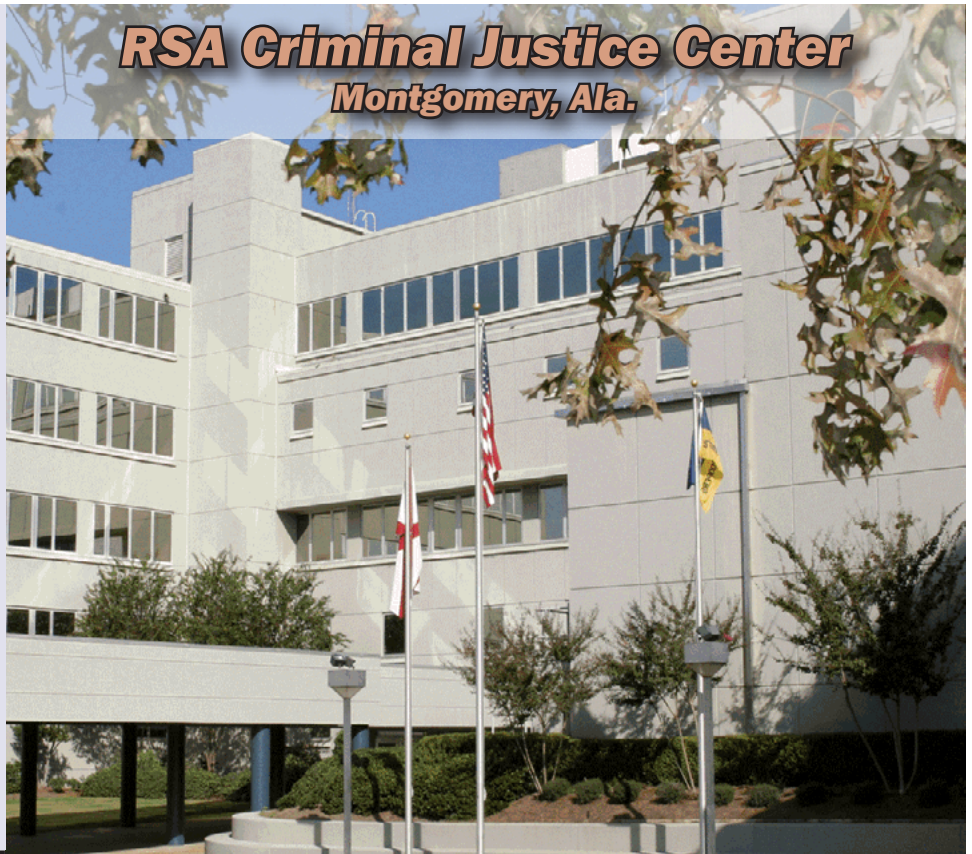
Tpr. John Reese, ADM

Tommy Giles, Photography

EDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Saturday, April 19

Fishing Tournament at Lake Guntersville

Monday, April 28

Confederate Memorial Day

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

Monday, June 2

Jefferson Davis' Birthday

It has been more than a month since Prattville was hit by a powerful EF-3 tornado. We, the residents, are getting back to some sense of normalcy. The houses are being reconstructed, and roofs are being replaced. I will never forget that day, as my family emerged from the closet to see the devastation the tornado had left behind. On the way out the door I grabbed my Southern LINC and called the Montgomery Post, advising them of what had happened and that we needed some help. As I worked my way down the street, clearing houses and helping those in need, I wondered what we — my family and neighbors — were going to do. Many times in my career I have been on the outside looking in, but never on the inside looking out. As I got to the end of the street, I found the answer to my own question: A long line of blue-and-grays approaching. The department immediately jumped in and started to work with everything from search and rescue to security check points. For that we are grateful. As I started to return home a couple of hours after the storm, I began to think of all the things I needed to do to secure the house. As I rounded the corner, I found my answer: A half dozen off-duty troopers and DPS employees working on my house to secure my belongings. In the days to come, the outpouring of support from DPS was more than anyone could imagine. I'm not going to name names, but you know who you are. My family and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers and support in the days after the storm. For the guys and gals who protected our community throughout the days to come so we could rest a little easier, we would say thanks. It has always been said DPS is one big family, and this I believe. Again, from my family to each of you, THANKS.

-Tim, Tammy, Kelli and Kaylee Pullin